

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

ORDER 86-29

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR:

OLEMA RANCH CAMPGROUND  
OLEMA  
MARIN COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (hereinafter the Board) finds that:

1. Leisure Retreats of America, Inc., submitted a Report of Waste Discharge dated January 14, 1986, for the discharge of domestic wastewater from Olema Ranch Campground. Leisure Retreats of America operates the campground, which is owned by Olema Ranch Campground, a limited partnership. For purposes of this order, the two entities will be referred to collectively as the discharger.
2. The discharger operates a 200-unit private campground immediately north of the unincorporated town of Olema, in Marin County (see Attachment A). The campground generates sewage from a manager's residence, 30 sewer connections for camper vehicles, two restrooms, and an 18-washer laundromat. Sewage flows to several septic tanks and then to a sump, where it is pumped about 1,200 feet north to three evaporation ponds having a total surface area of roughly 13,000 square feet. The campground generates wastewater flows of roughly 14,000 gallons per day (gpd), monthly average, during the busier summer months.
3. The campground is located between Highway One (Shoreline Highway) and Olema Creek, a water of the state and a tributary to Lagunitas Creek and Tomales Bay. The collection system sump is about 250 feet from Olema Creek and the evaporation ponds are about 400 feet from the creek.
4. The Board adopted a revised Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the San Francisco Bay Region on July 21, 1982. The Basin Plan prohibits the discharge of raw sewage or any waste failing to meet waste discharge requirements to any waters of the Basin. The Basin Plan also prohibits the discharge of wastewater to non-tidal waters, such as Olema Creek. The Basin Plan also requires that existing ground-water quality be maintained unless otherwise provided by the State Board (Resolution 68-16).
5. Beneficial uses of Olema Creek and Tomales Bay include:
  - Water-contact and non-contact recreation (both)
  - Commercial and sport fishing (bay only)

Freshwater habitat (creek only)  
Marine habitat (bay only)  
Wildlife habitat (both)  
Preservation of rare/endangered species (bay only)  
Fish migration and spawning (both)  
Shellfish harvesting (bay only)

6. A 1982 study of the campground's wastewater system concluded that most wastewater was percolating into soils below the three ponds. The study also found that the groundwater table was higher in the ponds' vicinity. Rapid percolation of wastewater from the ponds has the potential to degrade groundwater quality in the vicinity of Olema Creek.
7. The discharger proposes to construct a mound system for the subsurface disposal of wastewater. Mound design follows that recommended in the State Board's 1980 guidelines. The design calls for eight separate mound cells, each 82 feet on a side and served by its own dosing pump and reservoir. Each cell would have a design capacity of 3,000 gpd. The mound system would be constructed on the campground's north-western boundary in the area now occupied by the evaporation ponds (see Attachment A). Construction of at least two mound cells would have to await pond demolition and site rehabilitation. The discharger will either relocate mound cells to avoid the pond area or will construct the mound system in two phases, the first phase consisting of those mound cells that can be built prior to pond demolition. At least five mound cells would be needed to assure adequate capacity during peak use periods in the summer.
8. Both Leisure Retreats of America and Olema Ranch Campground have filed for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the federal bankruptcy laws. A reorganization plan is pending at this time. A court-appointed trustee has been informed of the mound system proposal and the urgency for its construction.
9. Adoption of revised waste discharge requirements is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Public Resources Code, Section 2100 et. seq.) pursuant to Section 15302 of the CEQA Guidelines.
10. The Board has notified the discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe waste discharge requirements for the discharge and has provided them with the opportunity for a public hearing and an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.
11. The Board, in a properly-noticed public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the discharger, in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder, shall comply with the following:

A. Discharge Specifications

1. The treatment or disposal of waste shall not create a nuisance as defined in Section 13050(m) of the California Water Code.
2. The disposal of waste shall not cause degradation of ground or surface water suitable for domestic water supply or cause an increase in any water quality parameter that would impair beneficial uses of said waters.

B. Prohibitions

1. Wastewater shall not be discharged to surface waters, via either surface flow or surfacing after percolation. Wastewater shall not surface in or adjacent to the mound system.
2. The discharge of waste other than domestic waste is prohibited.
3. The volume of wastewater discharged to the mound system shall not exceed the system's design capacity, as indicated below:

<u>Averaging Period</u>	<u>Full system (8 cells)</u>	<u>Fewer than 8 cells</u>
Weekly	24,000 gpd	3,000 gpd/cell
Monthly	16,800 gpd	2,100 gpd/cell

C. Provisions

1. The discharger shall comply with the following schedule:

<u>Task</u>	<u>Completion Date</u>
a. Demonstrate availability of project funding and retention of qualified engineer to oversee project construction	July 1, 1986
b. Complete construction of at least 5 mound cells	October 1, 1986
c. Submit plans and schedule	October 1, 1986

for removal of evaporation ponds, rehabilitation of pond site, and construction of additional mound cells (if fewer than 8 completed)

- d. Discontinue use of evaporation ponds (divert all wastewater flow to mound system) November 1, 1986

Compliance reports should be submitted for items b and d no more than two weeks after the completion dates. If non-compliance is being reported, the discharger should explain why and estimate the actual completion date.

2. Mound system design and construction technique should comply with the State Board's Guidelines for Mound Systems, dated January 1980, except that medium grain material (grain size 0.25 to 0.42 mm) should be used in the mound body fill. Flow measurement capability and monitoring wells should be installed to enable the discharger to comply with self-monitoring requirements.
3. The discharger shall keep pedestrians, vehicles, and grazing animals off the mound cells by fencing the mound area, posting signs around the perimeter, or both.
4. A reserve area shall be set aside by the discharger to accommodate a full replacement system, should the mound system fail in the future. The reserve area should have at least the same area as that proposed for the mound system, and should be suitable for wastewater disposal. A deed restriction or other mechanism should be used to restrict future use of the designated reserve area.
5. Following their removal from service, the evaporation ponds shall be drained, and the resulting wastewater and organic waste materials shall be disposed of in an environmentally-sound manner (e.g. discharged to the mound system in controlled amounts, or hauled to an approved disposal site). If the discharger decides to construct mound cells over the pond site, other steps shall be taken as necessary to provide a suitable base for mound construction. If no mound cells will be built over the pond site, then the site shall be filled with clean soil and levelled.
6. The discharger shall file with the Regional Board a report of waste discharge at least 120 days before making any material change or proposed change in the character, location, or volume of the discharge.
7. In accordance with California Water Code Section 13267(c), the discharger shall permit the Board or its authorized

representative:

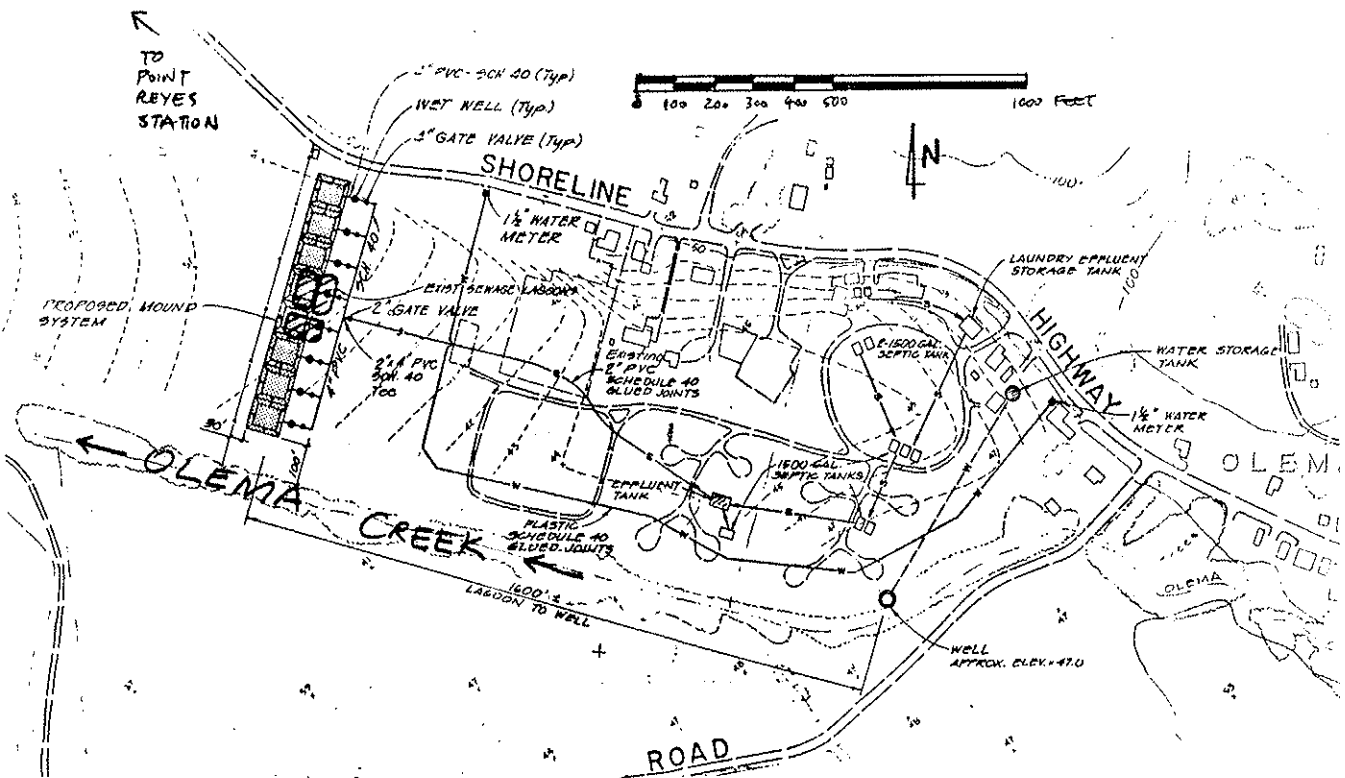
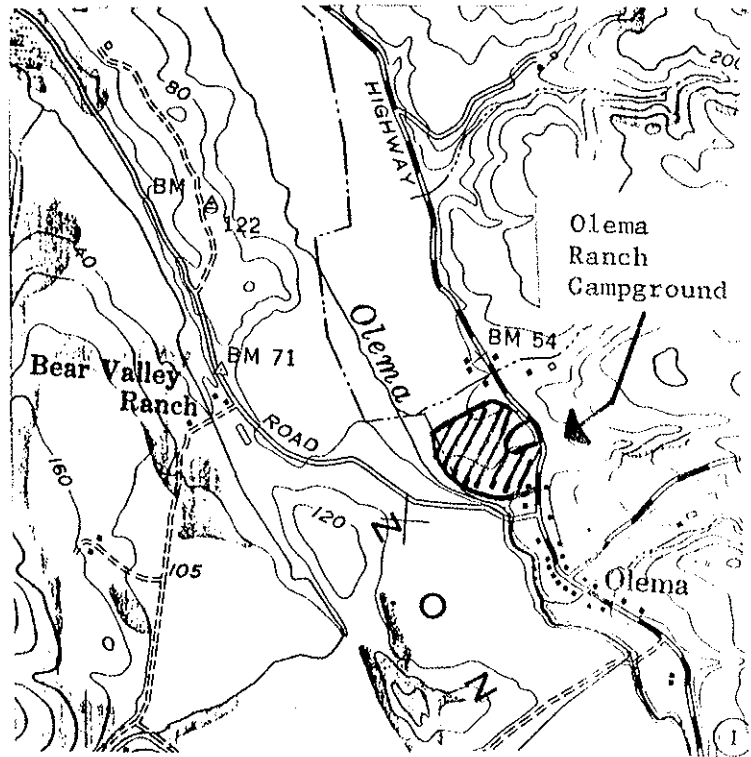
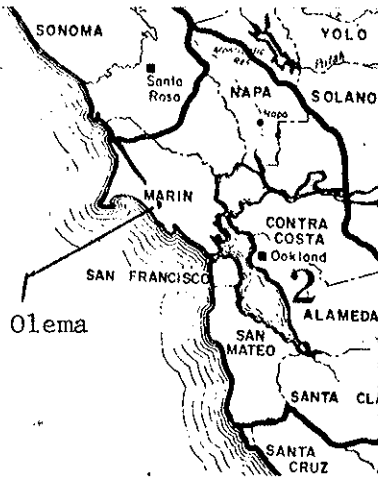
- a. Entry upon premises in which an effluent source is located or in which any required records are kept;
  - b. Access to copy any records required to be kept under the terms and conditions of this order;
  - c. Inspection of monitoring equipment or records; and
  - d. Sampling of any discharge.
8. The discharger shall comply with the self-monitoring program as adopted by this Board and as may be amended by the Executive Officer.
  9. This Board will review this order periodically and may revise the requirements when necessary.

I, Roger B. James, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region on April 16, 1986.

  
ROGER B. JAMES  
Executive Officer

Attachments:  
Self-Monitoring Program  
Site Map

# ATTACHMENT A: LOCATION MAP AND PROJECT MAP



CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

SELF-MONITORING PROGRAM  
FOR

Olema Ranch Campground

Olema

Marin County

ORDER NO. 86-29

CONSISTS OF

PART A

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

PART A

I. GENERAL

Reporting responsibilities of waste dischargers are specified in Sections 13225(a), 13267(b), 13268, 13383, and 13387(b) of the California Water Code and this Regional Board's Resolution No. 73-16. The principal purposes of a self-monitoring program are:

1. To document compliance with waste discharge requirements and prohibitions established by this Regional Board; and
2. To facilitate self-policing by the waste discharger in the prevention and abatement of pollution arising from waste discharge.

II. DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLING AND OBSERVATION

A. Wastewater Flow

Wastewater flow shall be measured at the existing wastewater sump or any other point in the collection system where all wastewater is present but prior to distribution to the various mound cells. Flow shall be measured weekly, with results expressed as average weekly flow (gallons per day) and average monthly flow (gallons per day).

B. Groundwater Monitoring

Monitoring wells shall be located in and adjacent to the mound system as shown in Figure 1. A type-C monitoring well shall also be installed at least 300 feet upgradient (southeast) of the mound cells to provide background data on groundwater quality. A similar monitoring well shall also be placed 300 feet downgradient of the mound system. For each monitoring well, depth to water shall be measured at least once prior to start-up of the mound system and monthly thereafter.

Prior to mound system completion and once each year afterward, monitoring well water (if any) shall be sampled for the following parameters: nitrate, nitrite, total dissolved solids, total and fecal coliform, and fecal streptococcus. Samples should be taken from four wells: the upgradient well, the downgradient well, and



two of the type-C wells adjacent to the mound system. Yearly samples should be taken during the period October 1 to December 31.

C. Observations

The discharger shall make weekly observations of the mound system and its perimeter, checking for surfacing wastewater, sewage odors, erosion of mound side-slopes, and any other problems. If surfacing water is present near the mound, the discharger shall take weekly samples and test for total and fecal coliform. A report of this observation and test results shall be sent immediately to the Board.

III. REPORTS TO BE FILED WITH THE BOARD

A. Violations of Requirements

In the event the discharger is unable to comply with the conditions of the waste discharge requirements due to:

- (a) maintenance work, power failures, or breakdown of waste treatment equipment; or
- (b) bypassing of untreated or partially treated wastewater; or
- (c) accidents caused by human error or negligence; or
- (d) other causes such as acts of nature;

the discharger shall notify the Board office by telephone (415-464-1255) as soon as he or his agents have knowledge of the incident and shall confirm this notification in writing within two weeks of the telephone notification. The written report shall include pertinent information explaining reasons for the non-compliance and shall indicate what steps were taken to prevent the problem from recurring.

B. Self-Monitoring Reports

Written reports shall be filed regularly for each calendar quarter and submitted by the fifteenth day of the following month (i.e. April 15, July 15, October 15, and January 15). The reports shall include:

1. Letter of Transmittal

A letter transmitting self-monitoring reports should accompany each report. Such a letter shall include a discussion of requirement violations found during the past quarter and actions taken or

planned for correcting violations, such as plant operation modifications. The letter transmitting monitoring reports shall be signed by a responsible official. The letter shall contain a statement by the official that to the best of the signer's knowledge the report is true and correct.

2. Data

All results observed or analyzed in section II, including dates and times of sampling and observations.

3. Map

A map shall accompany the report, showing sampling and observation station locations.

I, Roger B. James, Executive Officer, hereby certify that the foregoing Self-Monitoring Program:

1. Has been developed in accordance with the procedure set forth in this Regional Board's Resolution 73-16 in order to obtain data and document compliance with waste discharge requirements established in Regional Board Order No. 86-29.
2. Is effective on the date shown below.
3. May be reviewed at any time subsequent to the effective date upon written notice from the Executive Officer or request from the discharger, and revisions will be ordered by the Executive Officer.

  
ROGER B. JAMES  
Executive Officer

Effective Date April 17, 1986

Figure 1. Mound Monitoring Wells

For each mound cell: 1 type-A well  
2 type-B wells, one on each side  
2 type-C wells, one on each side

Plus a type-C well at either end of the eight-cell array

Mound cell cross-section (typical):

